

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
TERUYOSHI WASHIZAWA : Examiner: C. V. Luu  
Application No.: 10/812,868 ) : Group Art Unit: 2128  
Filed: March 31, 2004 ) : Confirmation No.: 4554  
For: METHOD AND APPARATUS OF ) : March 23, 2009  
OPTIMALLY DESIGNING A :  
STRUCTURE )

**Mail Stop RCE**  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits and in response to the final Office Action dated December 23, 2008, the Examiner is respectfully requested to amend the above-identified application as follows: